Message Text

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PAGE 01 CANBER 02926 160645Z

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 MMS-03 PER-05 ABF-01 SS-20 SP-03 TRSE-00

FBO-01 USIA-15 /063 W

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R 160322Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3191 INFO AMCONGEN SYDNEY AMEMBASSY MANILA

UNCLAS CANBERRA 2926

EO 11652: NA. TAGS: AFSP.

SUBJECT: ESTABLISHMENT OF IRS OFFICE - AUSTRALIA.

REF: (1) STATE 091255, AND (2) STATE 034675.

- 1. EMBASSY IS PUZZLED BY STATEMENT IN PARA ONE OF REFTEL (1) THATE QTE FOR OPERATIONAL REASONS, THE IRS OFFICE MUST BE LOCATED IN CANBERRA END QTE, A REVERSAL OF IRS POSITION CITED STATE 034875. WISH TO POINT OUT THAT THERE IS NO RPT NO SPACE AVAILABLE IN EMBASSY CHANCERY IN CANBERRA, AND EVEN PLANNED RENOVATIONS INCORPORATING ARKANA STREET ANNEX WOULD NOT ENABLE US TO HOUSE IRS BEFORE PROPOSED RELOCATION OF USIS COMPONENTS TO NEW NATIONAL PRESS BUILDING IN ABOUT 18 MONTHS TIME. SURVEY OF REAL ESTATE AGENTS HAS REVEALED NO RPT NO OFFICE SPACE NOW AVAILABLE FOR RENT IN CANBERRA, THOUGH SITUATION MAY EASE SOMEWHAT IN THREE OR FOUR MONTHS. RESIDENTIAL HOUSING WHICH COULD BE CONVERTED TO OFFICE SPACE IS SCARCE AND WOULD REQUIRE SANCTION OF CITY PLANNERS; ALTERNATIVE WOULD BE TEMPORARY WORK FROM MOTEL LOCATED NEAR EMBASSY UNTIL OFFICE SPACE BECOMES AVAILABLE.
- 2. CANBERRA AIRPORT SERVES ONLY SYDNEY AND MELBOURNE WHEREAS BROAD RANGE OF DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL AIR UNCLASSIFIED

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SERVICES TO ALL AREAS TO BE COVERED BY IRS REGIONAL

OFFICE ARE AVAILABLE IN SYDNEY. SPACE IN SAME BLDG AS SYDNEY CONGEN, OFFERED EMBTEL 2559, IS NOW LOST, BUT OTHER SPACE IS AVAILABLE IN SYDNEY AT APPROXIMATELY SAME TERMS. MOREOVER, ONLY A HANDFUL OF AMERICAN CITIZENS AND TWO OR THREE CORPORATIONS WITH AMERICAN INTERESTS ARE IN CANBERRA, COMPARED TO LARGE CONCENTRATION OF AMERICAN CITIZENS AND CORPORATIONS IN SYDNEY. FOR ALL OF THESE REASONS WE WOULD SUGGEST THAT IRS MIGHT WISH TO RECONSIDER ADVISEABILITY OF LOCATING IN SYDNEY RATHER THAN CANBERRA.

- 3. WE HAVE SPOKEN INFORMALLY WITH GOA AND ANTICIPATE NO PROBLEM IN OBTAINING GOA AGREEMENT TO INSTALLATION OF IRS OFFICE IN EITHER LOCATION. EMBASSY IS HOLDING UP FORMAL NOTE ON SUBJECT PENDING WASHINGTON REVIEW OF CONSIDERATIONS RAISED IN THIS MESSAGE.
- 4. DO WE ASSUME CORRECTLY THAT IRS OFFICE WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE ALSO FOR PAPUA NEW GUINEA. GREEN

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Message Attributes

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